

## **Economic Dimension Of The Environmental Policies Applied In Turkey And Its Potential Effects On Sustainable Development**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of the paper is to analyse the economic dimension of environmental policies still being applied in Turkey and to research the potential effects of sustainable development. In 1987 Bruntland Report was published by UN World Commission on Environment and Development and attention on sustainable development was attracted. In the aforementioned report, against the ever deteriorating environmental problems, the necessities of establishing the vital bridge between environmental development and economic development and the sustainability of development are accepted.

The first precaution coming to mind for preventing environmental destructions that causes crucial costs for national economies is the efficient and productive use of current resources and the establishment of an optimal equilibrium between current and future generations in terms of the use of resources. Being sensitive in terms of the principle of sustainable development in the formation of environmental policies is accepted to be an important approach for the prevention of environment. Although the sustainable development endeavours cause significant costs, it is observed that new policies are constantly formed in terms of environment. In the scope of the paper, the potential effects of environmental policies that aim to decrease the negative effects created by the destruction of environment and to turn the world into a more habitable area on sustainable development are analysed through national and international data.

## **1.INTRODUCTION**

The subject of environment is the most essential and common problem of the whole world. This matter to great extent originates to excessive usage of factors. Environmental destruction particularly, during the recent years has shown the gradual increase, so that the whole living beings or lifeless creatures have been negatively effected. In one hand the necessary expenditures to be made for protecting the living standards and hence, still to raise it more and on the other hand aiming that each of these expenditures not to cause the mentioned environmental destruction. The necessity of establishing a multi directional balances in between the production and consumption stands as a reality. This phenomenon brings forth the mutual influence of the lifeless and living beings to the present agenda and so has continuously been increasing the economical costs of the environmental protections. This point meanwhile, determines the borderlines of the environmental sciences as well.

The wide pronounciation of the term environment was first met in daily languages of the communities at early 1970's. At first glance the term environment may be considered to be an easily understandable concept but its very complicated structure shows itself when carefully examined.

Environmental pollution has both productional and consumptional dimensions. During the formation of these two phases, many harmful effluents get produced and do spread around. Unacceptably high levels of such effluents and their contaminating effects getting into the air, soil and water and polluting the underground. So, all these do cause the increased environmental destruction. This destruction shows itself sometimes as like desert, drought, erosions, poverty, impropriety, negligence and irresponsibility. Environmental problems, nowadays have essentially changed its nature and have rather gained a global dimensions by passing over the national borders.

Reducing the costs and relieving the negative pressures upon the sustainable developments needs a new approach towards the matter. This new approach can only be provided by international, national and regional collaborations. This study will cover how and what kind of method should be applied for avoidance of negative environmental effects but not reducing the social welfare and sustainable development what probable costs will be faced to and how these can be possibly met.

## **2.CONCEPTUAL FRAME**

Environmental science can be accepted as a branch investigating and studying the mutual effects among the living beings and their surroundings and so putting up the obtained results to discussions. Ecology and the economy by some means are the concepts with in each other. Ecology aims to utilize less of factors for protection of environment. The economy, however, is aiming for a higher level developments for higher prosperities. Henceforth, such sustainable development forms the common denominator of the coincidence between these two concepts. The Brundtland report about "our common future" defines the sustainable development as, to meet today's requirements without benefitting from the possibilities being planned to meet requirements of the future generations. (Gönel 2010, p.275) Another view for sustainable development is that it needs to benefit from protecting the ecological processes and life supporting systems by means of obtaining a continuous use of ecosystems and the genres (Ertürk Hasan 2009, p.397) By this definition the economical development target was focused

to the point succeeding on the potential economical growth whilst protecting the benefitted natural capital stock. (Dağdeviren 2003, p.143.)

Sustainable development doesn't only aims to form an environment that would be clean, safer and livable but also deals with the view that it should be more stable, healthful, prosperous and with higher living standards, which suits well to human being. (Gönel 2010, p.285) Therefore, the borderlines of sustainable development is overlapping or completing with the environmental protection standards it is therefore possible to qualify the sustainable development as an environmental confidant. This environmental confidant development has the potential capability of going over the environmental problems and solve. This potential, along with bringing up the new growth sources as productivity can a pronovelty (newness), new markets, security and stability, effective use and optimal distribution of these sources. (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/36/10/48060835.pdf>).

### **3.ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND THE PROCESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Environmental problems are as old as the history of human being. As the use of sources started to increase along with the industrial revolution, which has caused the increased environmental destruction since then. The first signs of pollution was noticed in England. One of the pollution are as in England were rivers. England, therefore has taken actions against all kinds of river pollution forms by the law passed in 1876 (Burows 1980, p.158) The first warning about the possible global heat rise due to CO<sub>2</sub> gas was made by Swedish scientist Svante Ahrrenius in 1898 but wasn't recognised as a serious one. (Karbuz, 2002, p.9) The first human death disasters took place in the town of Donora (Penn) in 1948 and the other one in London in 1952 had shown the necessity to take precautions against the pollutions. (Turkman 2000, p.36)

Some scientists and thinkers have expressed their views about the possible great catastrophies along with the continued environmental destructions, which all were initiated by spoiling the natural structure by human race since 1960's. Paul Erlich's publication in 1968 named "population bomb" and Rachel Garson's book of "silint spring" 1962 are example of the relevant problems. In 1968 Unesco called upon a conference "UN Biosphere Conference" by which, the first steps for the ecologically sustainable development were taken. 1972 is another turning over point on this particular activities. A meeting was held in Stockholm with 114 participant countries. (Karbuz, 2002, p.9) The most important result obtained from this conference was the common approach shown by the participating countries of different regimes and development levels for the point of environmental responsibilities. The markedly expressed principal idea at this conference was, to live in an environment that would most suit too human honour and good health (Ertürk, 2009, p.234) Another important result was "Mediterranean action plan", along with the warnings of environmental consciousness at Stockholm conference, 16 participant mediterranean countries have approved the action plan to save mediterranean sea from the pollution (Görmez 2003, p.86-87)

The world's environment and the development commission was formed in 1983 under the chairmanship of GRO Harlem, the prime minister of Norway and had published a report with the topic of "Our common future" which had created a great interest. (Uslu, 1990, p.53) ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brundtland\\_Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brundtland_Commission)) Followingly, a top meeting took place in Rio de Janeiro in 11.02.1992 where, the agenda 21 of this meeting had consisted of 800 pages in 40 chapters. After this conference total of 165 countries signed in 1993 the "Biological Assortment or variety" agreement. In 1994, 150 countries signed "The climatic

changes environmental agreement” which led to the formation of United nations sustainable development commission. (Gönel, 2010, p.290)

In 1997, Rio +5 conference was held with rather lesser attendance and not much of sufficient progress could be achieved on the above mentioned development. Again in 1997, the Kyoto protocol was found acceptable in Kyoto and was offered to the signatures in 1998 in New York, but somehow by the delays of USA, Russia and China could become effective on Feb 15,2005. The second top meeting for sustainable development was held in Johannesburg from Aug 26 to Sept. 4, 2005. More than 100 participations from the presidential or ministerial levels along with many civil public organizations and employer representatives was achieved. (Gönel, 2010, p.291)After this meeting two basic documents came out. One was the political proclamation and the other was the implementation plan. In this meeting 5 very important decisions were taken in the fields of water projects, energy, health, agriculture, biological variations and the protection of ecosystem administrations. (Karabıçak Armağan 2004, p.212) In 2007, Lula Silva, the president of Brazil, in his speech to UN General Assembly made an offer to hold a global top meeting Rio+20 to discuss the subjects about the sustainable developments in the world. His offer was approved on Dec. 24.2009 by the UN general assembly and the date was set for June 20-22.2012. The four points to be focused in this meeting are ; (<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/uluslararası-cevre-konulari.tr.mfa>

- To review promises(engagements)

- The new problems arouse

- Struggles against poverty and the green economy by means of sustainable development

- Associational frames for sustainable development

The Rio +20 UN sustainable development conference scheduled to be held in June 20-22. 2012 is actually an indication of the sensibility and the will to promote the mentioned matters. (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html>).

In Turkey too, under the responsibility and coordination of the ministry of development those Project activities within the framework of Turkey’s supportive projects to the preparations for Rio+20 conference and on the subjects of fortifying the systems of protected areas of Turkey, sea and the protected seaside areas to be made easier for the continuation. (<http://www.undp.org.tr/Gozlem3.aspx?WebSayfaNo=3510>). In this context a meeting was held in Ankara on Feb. 22.2012 on the sustainable development processing the future (<http://www.csb.gov.tr/gm/tau/index.php?Sayfa=haberlerdetay>HYPERLINK

"<http://www.csb.gov.tr/gm/tau/index.php?Sayfa=haberlerdetay&Id=520>"&HYPERLINK

"<http://www.csb.gov.tr/gm/tau/index.php?Sayfa=haberlerdetay&Id=520>"Id=520).

#### **4.ECONOMICAL DIMENSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND IT’S RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT**

In the literature of economy it was admitted that human needs are ever lasting but are limited for the sources to meet these requirements. So it seems possible to meet these requirements with such sources. Therefore, the necessity for all sorts of technological and technical effectiveness taken under considerations for the usage of natural resource. Again the mentioned effectiveness here must coincide with the effectiveness in the consumption and in the distribution of the sources. The effective and reasonable utilisation of sources carries up the prosperity to the agenda. The development of a community can only be by maximizing the social relief and prosperity. Promoting this social prosperity with out any reduction leads

the fact that a balance must be built between the existing and future generations. In our times it is believed that this balance can only be provided with the principles of sustainable development.

Basic problem of the underdeveloped countries is too crowded population and the poverty. Communities through out the history and before the industrial terms and those of industrialized communities the fact of population had the recycling effects qualitatively and quantitatively over the economy. Of course these recycles and transformations in economy is affecting the structure of population. The volume of population is an indicator affecting upon the production, division, consumption and also gets affected itself from these facts. (Küçükcalay, Türkcan, 2008, p.89) Over population adversely affects the distribution of income and promoting the excessive use of sources. This situation causes the ineffectiveness among the production consumption and sharing and eventually negatively effects upon the living quality. Therefore the importance of development by means of economy which basically measures the growing problems of the countries has been dominant factor in our days. To protect the level of prosperity of developed countries and overcoming the prolonged revolving poverty of the poor countries can only be realized by sustainable developments. According to the thesis of povertytrap the reason why some countries are poor is just because they're poor. In this povertytrap there is a steady state where per capita and per outputs are low. Therefore, whenever such a poor country intends to break this chain falls back into the same circle. (Ünsal 2007, p.179) United Nations development program is taking two indexes under consideration one is human poverty index and the other one is human development index. Human development index is the one that UNDP has produced aiming to show the development differences of the nations in international level. Such dimensions like health, education, living standards had all been added to this index. For obtaining an index, the life expectancy at birth representing the health, the mean years of schooling represents expected years of schooling and per GNDP used for representing the living standards. (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/> Studying datum given in Table 1 here below, the living standard gross national income per capita is 13559 USD, which is 62% high than Bosnia Herzegovina while the life expectancy at birth is 4% and expected years of schooling is 10% lower. Mean years of schooling in Bosnia is 2,2 years more than Turkey with the average of 8,7 years. Additionally human development index in Bosnia Herzegovina is 0,710 higher than Turkey. World Bank uses 1 USD/day measures to determine the level of poorness. Nowadays 1,2 billion people are living below this amount. Another measure is food energy method. By this internationally accepted method, the minimum level of calories determined but the consumption of other than foods were omitted. (Cepni 2010, p.201)

**Table 1. Fixed Values Used in Human Development Index**

		<b>Turkey (2010)</b>	<b>Bosnia Herzegovina (2010)</b>
<b>Health</b>	Life Expectancy At Birth	72,7	75,5
<b>Education</b>	Mean Years Of Schooling	6,5	8,7
	Expected Years Of Schooling	11,8	13,0
<b>Living Standards</b>	Gross National Income Per Capita	13.359 \$	8.222 \$
	Human Development Index	0,679	0,710

**Source:**<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistiks/hdi>;<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/> / ;  
([http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2010\\_EN\\_Table1\\_reprint.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Table1_reprint.pdf)).

Economical growth has a numerical properties expressing income per capita and physical increases in production where as the economical development includes not only numerical factors but also qualitative elements. In order to mention about the development there must be an improvment in processing rules and in quality levels of foundation and establishments. (Çepni, 2010 ; p.199) Nowadays the occurances of some negative progress about the environmental protection are directing the countries and communities to behave more sensitively. Instead of the developments with in definite borders and careless use of sources such a sustainable development that would cover the coming generations was found to bee more acceptable view all over the world. Sustainable development therefore is the kind that covers the economy, environment and the communities together. Here the fundamential problem is the excess financial burdens that sustainable development policies may cause. There are various opinions about the mentioned financial costs. Whilst the traditional approaches are rather distant on sustainability, the environmentalists are rather quite insistant. There are some views stating the possibilities of setting a harmonious acceptance between these two views. The aims of sustainable development aren't too far from the economical development targets. Actually, the object of sustainable development is simply to look after an adjustment or harmony between the economical requests and conveying capacity of ecosystems. (Gönel, 200, p.276) If such an adjustment could be realized in all countries, then, both the global rivalry will not be adversely affected by these policies and non of the economical stability will be spoiled or destroyed. Therefore, no social prosperity decrease. To set up such a harmony definitely is diffucult but is never impossible.

Minimising the environmental costs and converting the negativities to adventages forms firstly will depend upon the conversion of negative extroverts into introvert which may form during the production. Improving the sustainable living qualities, determining and implementing the methods would eradicate the negativies caused by the production and consumptional activities however what may be nede to provide this is the conformity between the targets desired to reach and the chosen instruments. (Toprak:2006, p.151); (Dağdemir:2003, p.141-155); (Çokgezen, 2007:102). Have been able to maintion about some principles for the solution of existing environmental problems within the sustainability. These principles are; “sustainable developments”, “the polluatant pays”, “precaution”, collabrations complementary high level protections, avoidance and avoidance at source.

#### **4.1.The Principle of Sustainable Development**

The essential projection point of this principle is the relation of environmental problems with the economical development. Environmental effluent Have a certain recyling (revaluation) capacity, which peovides appriciable savings in the utilization of natural sources. The ecological and natural living transformation gets negatively affected when the environment receives rapid pollution over the recyling capacity. (Başol and others.2007, p.163) The additional factors like over population migration problems, unorganized urbanization, increased traffic jams, earthquakes, wars, social disorders and complications have all great additional negativity to the ones mentioned above. Nowadays civil urbanization ratio is increasing rapidly in great number of countries and the population density gets higher in bigger towns. This unbalanced distribution of population leads to infrastructural insufficiency and so to over usage of sources will end up with increased pollution.

First of all the new technologies are needed for setting a suitable environmental protection policy that would match to sustainable development principles. This can only be realized by some attentive plans or precautions. For example, millions of vehicles nowadays are moving around all round the world. Additional millions are joining them everyday. By charging higher taxes for those vehicles harmful to the environment and lesser taxes for unarmful to the environment and lesser taxes for unarmful ones might be the collaborative support of research and development centers the minimisation of these negative effects upon the environment can reasonably be reduced. We can classify the renovations as renewals of products, processes and organisations. The first two are expressed as technological renewals. The organisational one can be taken as example to “just in time” renewal principles. Through the aid of technological renewals improved production schemes and new methods can be developed. Technological renovations, whilst making these new products more popular, it may also become a reason for the birth of a sector. It’s very important to select the most suitable one among the alternative technologies. Developing countries can not explore new Technologies but can obtain them through the transferences. (Kaya, 2008. p.281) but these developed countries don’t give chance to them for such transference of new Technologies. Insufficient Technologies may have negative effects upon the environmental protection, that is why many of those underdeveloped countries become rather a field or source of pollution.

The foremost duties about the sustainable developments are up to the central and local authorities. Uncontrolled, unhealthful and rapid civil urbanisation results in increased squatters shacks round the suburban areas. A great deal of sharing the benefits due to rapid urbanisation causes the destruction of historical background and sites of the town. This excess and denser growth of inhabitant areas lose their green nature and turn out to be a mass of concrete structures. Insufficiency of present technical and social infrastructure creates very unhealthy appearance (Türkmen 2000, p.140). Local authorities should take necessary precaution mutually with central authorities, civilian social and Professional organisations to make their towns a better place to live in. Some randomly made construction plan check ups and modifications have been creating very unlucky effects upon historical and cultural structure of the towns. Environmental and touristic sites get badly and irrevocably harmed by such wrong administrations.

Traffic jam is another negative factor in sustainable developments. Thousands of people are losing their lives and wasted in Turkey and all around the world. Better results can be obtained if the suitable correction can be made infrastructures of transportation facilities be improved and when the proper transference of existing usable sources be realized.

Earthquakes cause tremendous collapses and loss of lives all over the world. Those who can save themselves may have psychological disorders. So, careful studies and calculations of the constructions and better selection and use of good quality materials will provide strong facilities. This will avoid the loss of many lives and sorrowness.

Health is one of the indicators to emphasise the importance of sustainable development. For a healthy community a clean environment is firstly needed. Living in a clean, neat media does increase the quality of life. Lesser expenditures for health increase communal savings, such savings will help the development of the countries progress and to have a prosperous life.

World peace is the subject that can be benefited from to obtain best results in sustainable developments. No natural destruction can compete with the pollution may be caused by the wars. The matter of armaments and wars were always neglected to mention in the environmental literatures by which they do put forward their views by all chance about the environmental protection. Nevertheless should those invest billions of dollars for armaments

be allocated to help settling peace, protecting cultural values and for an honourable human living, there would remain no poverty, hunger and pollution all over the world. Those realistic countries, being aware of losses due to wars always stay away from supporting, feeding or provoking the terrorism. This takes the human being to peace and confidence.

#### **4.2. Who Pollutes Will Pay Principle**

Environmental cost inclusively to turn the responsibility and duty of preventing the pollution over to the pollutant by charging the total cost of the use of natural sources. However, it's not always possible to identify the pollutant. That's why a great portion of the pollution cost are rather made paid by the public through the taxes. For instance, Turkey being an OECD member has been having maximum revenue through the taxes relevant to environment, that 4,8% GNDP of Turkey and 25% of the total income taxes weren't set up for environmental purposes. Nevertheless the ratio of expenditures for the prevention of pollutions to GNDP, 1,1% could hardly be increased to 1,2%. (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/54/17/42198785.pdf>, p.21) It's rather difficult to detect or identify the individuals causing the pollutions. There is a need for very precise good detection network. To realize such an attempt, public should be with reasonable education conscious, capable of preserving his civil rights and be dynamic ones. There should be no pressure on dense population and poverty, as otherwise the problem of hunger will exist in such a community. If the individuals are having some fear and anxiousness for their survivals, environmental problems are then nothing more than a fantastic matter for them. Therefore the subject sustainable development is definitely an ethical concept. Communities or individuals must have ethical responsibilities that not look after only for the prosperities of their own groups but must for those who have no support and incapable of expressing themselves.

#### **4.3. Precaution and Prevention Principle**

Necessary precautions must be taken before making any decisions and testing for probable reactions may arise from such decisions. All precautions no matter how effective they may be won't be sufficient once the environmental destruction occurs.

#### **4.4. Completing and Collaboration Principles**

Environmental protection must be in harmony with other policies and must go for collaboration in all fields when necessary. But, reducing the globally occurred pollutions it is a must to have an international collaboration. The dimensions of such international collaborations and sharing the attendances rather depends on the countries capacity in creating Technologies and their usage.

#### **4.5. High Level Protection Principles**

When taking any kind of decision the authorised unit or societies must take the environmental policies under considerations. Law makers should also obey these rules as well.

#### **4.6. Prevention at Source Principle**



Environmental harms must be readily prevented at source, otherwise there will be not much meaning once the damage occurs. For example, one of the most important subject of Turkey is forest fires. The main point about such fires is not to have the start of such fires because the useful flora and wildlife can not be reobtainable. Such fire does not only destroy the nature, but burns those inhabitants site sor villages. Billions of t.l.s worthed goods get simply lost. Turkish development policies from the planning period to present times has shown a progress towards the sustainable development with in the dimensions of economy environment and community activities. In spite of the marked progresses achieved in this field, the observation and evaluations of sustainable developments have remained limited. Some small scale local studies were realized on this subject nevertheless the need preparing Turkey's national sustainable development indication set and index is stil valid.

## 5.SUMMARY

The most essential principle in environmental protection is to provide proper utilisation of natural sources in right balance and to look after and pressure rightfull share among the generation. Therefore, it is a must to seriously accept research and developments for introducing new Technologies into the circulation. Must be precise to benefit from the recycling possibilities for effluents coming from the productions and to aim to edible sources and use the sources but not finish. Environmental and economical policies those will provide the sustainability must take over a dominant role. Excessive productions and selfishness in consumptions will never be ethical and will also maket he most reasonably applicable policies invalid about the environmental protection. The complementary policies which the international collaborations and harmony and will fallowing the effectiveness of the appropriate distrubution of the sources, productions and consumptions seems to give very meaningful results and high level protective precautions are thought to be a fruitful and will be preventive against the probable environmental problems right at the source before coming into being fort he global effectiveness of the sustainable development policies and to transfer a livable environment to the generations. An intelligence having the power and desire to live in a clean and neat surroundings snd also fighting against all sorts of pollutions in the world must build its sovereignty all over the world.

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